



Apprentice  
Employment  
Agency

# WORDS FROM OUR APPRENTICE: JAYDEN

Maintenance  
& Operations Engineer



## Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I chose the apprenticeship route as my brother had been to college and from what he described, it did not seem like the right choice. On top of that, I knew and spoke to a few people who were older than me who also chose the apprentice route. They were all very happy they did and are underway to a lifetime career with lots of opportunity for progression. Not only this, there's also need for engineers all over the world so there is little worry about job threat and if you wanted to, you could travel the world doing it - something I feel like is great as not many young people want to stay in one place their whole life.

## What are the benefits of being an apprentice?

Some of the main benefits are that you get paid while learning, which is a big bonus as it gives many young people the opportunity to save up for things that they may want or need, like a car. Also, it is a great way to get into the industry at a young age with fantastic training along the way, making sure that when you qualify, you are not only able to do your job but do it to a very high standard. Another benefit of being an apprentice is that quite a few companies are willing to invest in you, paying not only the fees for things like HNCs and HNDs, but also paying you to attend them.

## Describe a typical day for yourself

The first few hours are spent in the classroom, learning some of the theoretical side of what I will be doing (this is done in greater detail on Tech Day's where you learn about the different sciences relevant to your occupation). After a short session in the classroom, the rest of the day will be spent in the workshop completing practical tasks. For me as an E&I apprentice, it mainly consists of calibrating instruments and electrical installations - this means wiring up different circuits, like a light circuit you would see in your house for example.

## How has Apprentice Employment Agency supported you?

They have supported me by helping me in every way possibly and being extremely friendly whilst doing so. This was very important as when I first started, it was a big step transitioning from school. This includes regular phone calls and emails, asking if I have any problems with the training I am receiving in work, or even problems I have outside of work are affecting me. No matter the situation, I always feel like I'm supported by an amazing team.

## What new/existing skills have you developed in your role?

I have learned many new skills, one of the big things that I noticed was how much you can learn in a short period of time with good training. I have learned how to operate different machinery, perform basic maintenance tasks on mechanical equipment and more specifically, wiring up different circuits ensuring that I follow the specification and circuit diagrams as I am doing so. This includes how to properly test a circuit, meaning I know how to ensure a circuit has not got any live voltage and is safe to work on. Testing circuits also allows you to make sure it is up to scratch and safe for use. I have also learned a lot about instruments used to measure different aspects in a process, and how to correctly calibrate these to make sure they are measuring accurately. Also included is key health and safety training which is important for any industry that you will work in.

## Explain how you found working at the same time as undertaking structured learning provided by your line manager, colleagues and/or training provider

I found this not as difficult as I thought it would be, the teachers are always very helpful. Due to there being a smaller amount of students compared to a school classroom, it made asking questions frequently easier so I fully understand everything. It has not seemed to interfere with my practical training, and allowed me to qualify with an even better qualification at the end of my apprenticeship. Even though the concept of what is learned on these days are sometimes hard to get your head around, with repetition alongside asking questions, it means everyone is able to understand them.

